

82D CONGRESS  
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT  
No. 2302

PETER ROUSETOS, ALSO KNOWN AS PANAGIOTIS ROUS-  
SETOS, ALSO KNOWN AS PANAGIOTIS ROUSSETOS MET-  
RITIKAS

JUNE 25, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the  
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7164]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill  
(H. R. 7164) for the relief of Peter Rousetos, also known as Panagiotis  
Roussetos, also known as Panagiotis Roussetos Metritikas, having con-  
sidered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and  
recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant to the minor adopted child of  
United States citizens the status of a nonquota immigrant which is  
the status normally enjoyed by the alien minor children of citizens of  
the United States.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiary of the bill was born in Sparta, Greece, September 7  
1932, and was adopted in Greece in 1937 by Mr. and Mrs. John M.  
Metritikas, who are citizens of the United States. According to the  
record the boy was issued a visa in 1940 but before the boy could depart  
Greece entered the war and he was unable to come to this country.

A letter dated October 25, 1950, to the chairman of the Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with  
reference to S. 3412, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first  
Congress for the relief of the same alien reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
Washington, October 25, 1950.

HON. PAT. McCARRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 3412) for the relief of Peter Rousetos also known as Panagiotis Roussetos, an alien.

The bill would direct the Secretary of State to cause an immigration visa to be issued to Peter Rousetos, permitting his immediate entry into the United States for permanent residence. It would also direct the Secretary to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the nonpreference category of the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien, a native and citizen of Greece, was born at Hrisafa, Sparta, Greece, on September 7, 1932. According to Mr. John N. Metritikas, his uncle and alleged adoptive father, the alien resides on a small farm in Greece with his widowed mother and one brother. Mr. Metritikas, a naturalized citizen of the United States, stated that the alien, who is the son of his wife's sister, was adopted by him in Greece in September 1937, and that in November 1940 he succeeded in obtaining a permanent visa for the boy, but before the child could depart from Greece, that country had entered the war, making it impossible for him to come to this country. Mr. Metritikas further stated that he served in the United States Armed Forces from September 1917 until July 1919, and that the alien served for about 1 year in the home guard of his own village in Greece which guarded the village against the guerrillas. According to Mr. Metritikas, he is worth approximately \$20,000, has no children of his own, and has purchased a small lunchroom, which he and the alien will operate, provided the latter is permitted to come to this country.

The quota of Greece, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed, and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. The record, however, fails to present considerations justifying the enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over other aliens, who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country for permanent residence, many of whom are the adoptive children of American citizens. Furthermore, the problem of granting relief to adoptive children of United States citizens is a general one, and it would appear that it would be resolved by general legislation.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,  
Deputy Attorney General.

Senator Ives, the author of a companion bill (S. 2637) which passed the Senate on June 21, 1952, wrote to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in support of his measure as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,  
February 25, 1952.

Re S. 2637, for the relief of Panagiotis Roussetos Metritikas

Senator PAT McCARRAN,  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR McCARRAN: The above-entitled bill, introduced by me on February 11, 1952, while not identical with S. 3412 of the Eighty-first Congress, has to do with the same individual and was introduced for the same purpose.

I would appreciate it very much if you would have the file on S. 3412 of the Eighty-first Congress transferred to your file so that it may be considered by your subcommittee.

In further support of the bill, I enclose herewith the following:

1. Photostat of birth certificate of Panagiotis Metritikas with a certified translation of same attached thereto.
2. Photostat of order of adoption of Panagiotis George Roussetos by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Metritikas in the court of justice of Sparta, Greece, with a certified translation of same attached thereto.

3. Affidavit of John M. Metritikas in duplicate stating the facts and circumstances of the adoption and his financial assets.

4. A letter of reference from C. Burdette Parkhurst, mayor of the village of Endicott.

5. Letter of reference from Rev. Athanase Devedjakis, pastor of the Greek Orthodox Church of Endicott.

6. Letter of reference from E. Raymond Lee, businessman and former mayor of Endicott.

7. Letter of reference from Leroy E. Wike, chief of police of Endicott.

8. Letter of reference from Homer L. Galough, master of Round Hill Lodge, F. & A. M., Endicott.

9. Affidavit of the assistant cashier of the Endicott National Bank pertaining to Mr. Metritika's financial means.

I hope you can agree with me upon a reading of last session's file, the enclosures herein, and the Attorney General's report that this is a most meritorious case. This young boy, but for the vagaries of war, would have been in this country as a legally admitted immigrant in 1940, after having been adopted in Greece by Mr. and Mrs. Metritikas several years before.

You will note from the affidavit of John Metritikas as well as from the birth certificate that the above individual was born in the village of Perpane, kingdom of Greece, on September 8, 1931, and will no longer be a minor after September 8, 1952. I point out this fact because if the committee feels that the bill does have merit, then time would be of the essence in order to effectuate the purpose of the bill.

I trust that this legislation will receive favorable consideration.

Thanking you for your even courtesy and cooperation, with kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

IRVING M. IVES.

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
County of Broome, ss:

John M. Metritikas, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides at No. 214 Lincoln Avenue in the village of Endicott, Broome County, N. Y., with his wife, Anna Metritikas; that he is 60 years of age and his wife is 10 years younger than he; that they have no children except the adopted son hereinafter mentioned.

That deponent as a boy came to the United States from Greece in or about the month of June 1905 and became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America in the year 1921. That deponent served in the United States Army in World War I.

That Panagiotis George Roussetos was born in the village of Perpane, Kingdom of Greece, on September 8, 1931, the son of deponent's wife's sister and that his father died when he was a small child. That deponent and his wife visited Greece in 1937 and while in that country adopted said Panagiotis Roussetos in the court of justice of Sparta, Greece, on September 23, 1937. That deponent and his wife have always been desirous of bringing said adopted son to the United States and having him make his home with them. That in 1940 deponent obtained a permanent visa for said child and he was to have sailed from Greece to the United States on or about November 6 of that year. That on or about October 28 of that year war broke out and all passage out of the country was canceled. That said Panagiotis (Roussetos) Metritikas arrived in the Dominion of Canada on or about March 12, 1951, and is now staying in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, and that deponent and his wife visited their adopted son in that city. That deponent and his wife are anxious to obtain a permanent visa for their son and heir.

That deponent is the proprietor of a lunch and ice-cream business at No. 1200 North Street in the village of Endicott aforesaid, which business is worth at least the sum of \$6,500; that deponent has an income from said business of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per year. That deponent owns the following real estate in Broome County, N. Y., viz his residence, No. 214 Lincoln Avenue, Endicott, N. Y., valued at \$20,000 and an undivided one-half interest in and to a business block known and designated as No. 219 Main Street, Johnson City, which one-half interest is valued at \$15,000. In addition he has on deposit in the Endicott National Bank at Endicott, N. Y., cash amounting to over \$13,500 and is the owner of mortgages having a present value of \$8,260.87 and stock hav-

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ing a present value of \$3,650. That in addition to the above deponent owns an automobile and miscellaneous items of personalty.

That deponent is able to and will support his said adopted son if necessary to prevent him from becoming a public charge.

JOHN M. METRITIKAS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of February 1952.

[SEAL]

LESTER R. MOSHER,

*Notary Public, State of New York, Residing in Broome County.*

My commission expires March 30, 1953.

Mr. Cole of New York, the author of this bill, recommended favorable and expeditious action on his measure.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that H. R. 7164 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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